unmanned level crossing near Kancheepuram, is the very same place where 17 lives in a similar mishap that has happened some time back;

(b) if so, whether it would not be prudent for the authorities to take prompt action to avert this kind of mishap;

(c) whether there would be a comprehensive approach in terms of resource and fixation of time-frame to tackle this major problem; and

(d) what could be the resource required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. An accident took place at unmanned level crossing No. 36 on 16.4.2007 near Kancheepuram in Chengalpattu-Arakkonam Section of Chennai Division of Southern Railway in which 11 persons lost their lives. In the same Section another accident took place at a different location on unmanned level crossing No. 34 on 31.10.2006 in which 17 persons lost their lives.

(b) to (d) Most of such accidents occur due to negligence of road users who fail to observe the prescribed precautions, at the time of crossing the track amounting to violation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act. In order to prevent such accidents railways conduct widespread public awareness campaigns to educate the road users. Efforts are also made to close down sparingly used such level crossings in close proximity to each other. Provision of manning of level crossings or Road-Over-Bridge/Road-Under-Bridge already exists provided the traffic density has exceeded the prescribed limit. Very recently it has been decided to provide limited use sub-ways wherever feasible at railways cost unlike as in case of Road-Over-Bridge/Road-Under-Bridge where cost is shared between railways and the State Government.

Setting up fire testing laboratory

4095. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to set-up fire testing laboratory at Railway Research Design and Standard Organisation is still hanging; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when it would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Connecting Buddhist Pilgrimages

4096. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch a unique express train connecting all the important places of Buddhist pilgrimages in country besides one in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are details of such centres in Orissa State which would be covered in the train journey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) To facilitate the Buddhist tourists, a tourist train has recently been launched in collaboration with the Indian Railway Tourism and Catering Corporation (IRCTC). Presently this train is running on the following itinerary.

Delhi Safdarjung-Gaya-Bodhgaya (Nalanda and Rajgir by road)-Varanasi (Sarnath by road)-Gorakhpur (Kushinagar and Lumbini by road)-Gonda (Shravasti by road)-Agra-Delhi Safdarjung.

However, this itinerary does not cover any Buddhist pilgrimage centre situated in Orissa.

New PRS at Ambli Road station

†4097. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.